AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2002

ASSEMBLY BILL   No. 2759

Introduced by Assembly Member Shelley

February 25, 2002

An act to repeal and add Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2245) of Division 2 of the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2759, as amended, Shelley.   Voter registration.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature that voter registration be maintained at the highest possible level and requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations requiring each county to design and implement programs to identify qualified electors who are not registered voters, and attempt to register those persons to vote.

This bill would impose a state-mandated local program by requiring the governing board of each school district that maintains grade 12 to adopt specified procedures for the distribution of voter registration cards to high school seniors in the school district who will be ~~taking a civics class or its equivalent~~ *graduating* that school year.

This bill would make a technical change.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that the Legislature finds there is no mandate contained in the bill that will result in costs incurred by a local agency or school district for a new program or higher level of service which require reimbursement pursuant to these constitutional and statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1.   Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2245) of
2 Division 2 of the Elections Code is repealed.
3 SEC. 2.   Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 2245) is added
4 to Division 2 of the Elections Code, to read:
5
6 CHAPTER 4.   REGISTRATION OF STUDENT VOTERS
7
8 2245.   ~~(a)~~ The governing board of each school district that
9 maintains grade 12 shall do all of the following:
10 ~~(1)~~
11 *(a)* Annually request from the county elections official a
12 sufficient number of voter registration cards for high school
13 seniors in the school district who will be ~~taking a civics class or its~~
14 ~~equivalent~~ *graduating* that school year.
15 ~~(2) Ensure that voter registration cards are distributed to each~~
16 ~~pupil at the conclusion of a civics class or its equivalent. It is the~~
17 ~~intent of the Legislature that pupils to whom the registration cards~~
18 ~~are distributed receive appropriate instructions relating to~~
19 ~~eligibility for registration and the completion of the card in the~~
20 ~~civics class or its equivalent.~~
21 ~~(3)~~
22 *(b) Ensure that a voter registration card is distributed to each*
23 *pupil with his or her diploma.*
24 *(c)* Establish procedures for the proper handling of voter
25 registration cards.
26 ~~(4)~~
27 *(d)* Provide a written notice informing each student to whom a
28 voter registration card is distributed of the eligibility requirements
29 under state law, and that he or she may return the completed card
30 ~~to the deputy registrar of voters under subdivision (b), or in person~~

1 *in person* or by mail to the ~~county clerk~~ *elections official* of the
2 county in which the student resides.
3 ~~(b) For purposes of this section, the principal of each high~~
4 ~~school, or a designee, shall serve as a deputy registrar of voters~~
5 ~~who is authorized to coordinate the request, receipt, distribution,~~
6 ~~and return, of voter registration cards to the county elections~~
7 ~~official. Completed voter registration cards received by the deputy~~
8 ~~registrar of voters shall be promptly forwarded to the county~~
9 ~~elections official.~~
10   SEC. 3.   Pursuant to Section 17579 of the Government Code,
11 the Legislature finds that there is no mandate contained in this act
12 that will result in costs incurred by a local agency or school district
13 for a new program or higher level of service which require
14 reimbursement pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the
15 California Constitution and Part 7 (commencing with Section
16 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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